

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the Summary of the Invention in the application by: a) deleting in its entirety the paragraph that starts at line 35 on page 2 and ends at line 15 on page 3 as amended by the Non-Fee Amendment Under Rule 111 filed on December 12, 2003 ("the Rule 111 Amendment").

b) Amending the two paragraphs added by the Rule 111 Amendment at the end of the Summary of the Invention as follows:

The present invention is also a system that comprises:

a first network having at least one client connected thereto;

a second network;

the first and second networks having different protocols;

a network communications coupler connected to both the first network and the second network;

the at least one client sending a plurality of commands to the coupler and designating at least one of the commands as a delayed response command;

the coupler for storing one or more instances of a command interpreter, the command interpreter providing a command/reply interface for data and command exchange between one of the at least one clients and the second network and the coupler also for storing a first instance of a template, the template associated with one or more instances of the command interpreter, the first instance used to store in the coupler at least one of the delayed response commands during execution of the at least one delayed response command by the coupler; and for storing a second instance of the template, the second instance used to store in the coupler a reply to the at least one delayed response command executed by the coupler until the reply is retrieved by the client.

The invention is further a system that comprises:

a first network having at least one client connected thereto;

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a distributed control system comprising a second network;  
the first and second networks having different protocols;  
a network communications coupler connected to both the  
first network and the second network;

the at least one client sending a plurality of commands to  
the coupler and designating by means of a predetermined key  
value provided by the at least one client at least one of the  
plurality of commands as a delayed response command, the at  
least one client using the predetermined key value to retrieve a  
reply to the at least one delayed response command executed by  
the coupler;

the coupler for storing one or more instances of a command  
interpreter, the command interpreter providing a command/reply  
interface for data and command exchange between one of the at  
least one clients and the second network and the coupler also  
for storing a first instance of a template, the template  
associated with one or more instances of the command  
interpreter, the first instance used to store in the coupler at  
least one of the delayed response commands during execution of  
the at least one delayed response command by the coupler; and  
for storing a second instance of the template, the second  
instance used to store in the coupler a reply to the at least  
one delayed response command executed by the coupler until the  
reply is retrieved by the client.

c) adding at the end of the Summary of the Invention as  
amended by the Rule 111 Amendment the following paragraph:

The present invention is a method for use with those of a  
plurality of commands sent by at least one client on a network  
connected to a network communications coupler designated by the  
at least one client as delayed response commands. The method  
comprises:

storing in the coupler one or more instances of a command  
interpreter, the command interpreter providing a command/reply  
interface for data and command exchange between one of the at  
least one clients and a control network connected to the coupler;

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storing in the coupler a first instance of a template, the template associated with one of the one or more stored instances of the command interpreter, the first instance used to store in the coupler at least one of the delayed response commands during execution of the at least one delayed response command by the coupler; and

storing in the coupler a second instance of the template, the second instance used to store in the coupler a reply to the at least one delayed response command executed by the coupler until the reply is retrieved by the client.